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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,713	02/09/2000	James R. Connor	98-2046	2989

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

CHERNYSHEV, OLGA N

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1646

13

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/500,713	CONNOR ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Olga N. Chernyshev	1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 and 17-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10, 17-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1, 2, 17 and 18 have been amended and claims 26-29 have been cancelled as requested in the amendment of Paper No.12, filed on January 03, 2002. Claims 1-10 and 17-25 are pending in the instant application.
2. The Text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action
3. Any objection or rejection of record, which is not expressly repeated in this action has been overcome by Applicant's response and withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments filed on January 03, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a method for the detection of multiple sclerosis (MS) using samples of brain tissue, does not reasonably provide enablement for a method for the detection of altered distribution of protein binding sites using any other samples. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Claims 1 and 17 are directed to a method for the detection of altered distribution of protein binding sites, which involves using a tissue sample from a human suspected of having a

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demyelinating disease. (For the purpose of interpretation of the claims “altered distribution of protein binding sites” is interpreted as “altered distribution of iron binding protein sites”).

Applicant argues that “In view of *In re Marzocchi*, [...] the Examiner fails to provide adequate explanation, evidence, or reasoning as to why the Applicants’ specification fails to enable the scope of the invention as claimed” (page 7, third paragraph of the Response). This has not been found persuasive because Applicant did not identify an error in which the scientific reasoning provided in section 8 of Paper No.10 has not been found reasonable. Briefly, the instant specification expressly states that “The invention is based on the distribution of ferritin receptors in the brain and the pathological production of antibodies against these receptors in persons afflicted with MS” (page 2, lines 26-27 of the instant specification). Claims 1 and 17 are broad enough to encompass any tissue sample, including, for example, liver samples. The instant specification does not disclose the significance in altered distribution of iron binding protein sites in liver (or lung, or kidney) tissue samples from a patient suffering from MS and a normal individual. The only tissue, which is disclosed and supported by working examples in the instant specification, is brain tissue. Therefore, it would require undue experimentation and making a substantial inventive contribution for the skilled artisan to discover how to use Applicants’ invention as currently claimed.

Applicant argues further that “a considerable amount of experimentation is permissible... if the specification in question provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experimentation should proceed....” *Ex parte Jackson* ” (page 8, first paragraph of the Response). The Examiner agrees that some experimentation, as long it is routine and leads to reasonable expectations, following the provided guidance, is acceptable and is not

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considered undue. In case of the claimed instant method, due to the lack of guidance in the instant specification, practicing a method for the detection of “altered distribution of protein binding sites” in, for example, liver tissue sample would lead to unpredictable results. Therefore, such practicing is considered as undue experimentation.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-10 and 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
7. Claims 1 and 17 are indefinite and ambiguous for recitation of “altered distribution of protein binding sites”. It is not clear from the claims and not supported by the instant specification what is intended by “protein binding sites”. Also, the term “altered” is a relative term and metes and bounds of “altered”, how much altered, increased or decreased cannot be determined form the claims because no point of reference is given on how to estimate intended alteration.
8. Claims 2-9 and 18-25 are indefinite for being dependent form indefinite claims.

Conclusion

9. No claim is allowed.

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THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olga N. Chernyshev whose telephone number is (703) 305-1003. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9 AM to 5 PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on (703) 308-6564. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0294 for regular communications and (703) 308-0294 for After Final communications.

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax center located in Crystal Mall 1 (CM1). The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices

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published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by Applicant or Applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4556 or (703) 308-4242. If either of these numbers is out of service, please call the Group receptionist for an alternative number. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (703) 308-0294. Official papers should NOT be faxed to (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Olga N. Chernyshev, Ph.D.
February 27, 2002

OC


JOHN ULM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800